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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 90, NO. 105

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2007

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

TUESDAY
notebook

ELECTION DAY!

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE TODAY!

TODAY IS THE DAY TO VOTE FOR RUN-OFF ELECTIONS. TOP SPOTS LIKE HUSA PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT OF COAS STUDENT COUNCIL AS WELL AS CEACS STUDENT COUNCIL ARE OPEN ON BISONWEB TODAY.

LIFE & STYLE

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE "DRIVEN?"

FIND OUT THE DEFINITION OF "DRIVEN," ACCORDING TO THE HUSTLE OF STUDENT PRODUCER CHRIS HINES, IN TODAY'S LIFE & STYLE SECTION.
PAGE 10



TUES, 3/13:
PARTLY CLOUDY
HIGH: 73, LOW: 52



WED, 3/14:
MOSTLY CLOUDY
HIGH: 74, LOW: 59

Faculty Members Split on Senate Decision Letter

BY DREW COSTLEY
Campus Editor

Several faculty members expressed opposition to the content of the letter that the Faculty Senate sent to the Board of Trustees last week.

President H. Patrick Swygert has scheduled a meeting with Faculty Senate leaders regarding the dispute. The meeting is set for March 21, according to two members of the faculty senate.

"I did not agree with the content of the letter," James Davis, Ph.D., the head of the department of modern languages, said. "I was not consulted to even know what my views might be regarding the situation."

The Faculty Senate will meet with faculty members this afternoon in the Seeley G. Mudd Building to discuss the letter and what objectives the faculty leadership should accomplish in the March 21 meeting.

According to Thomas Bremner, Ph.D., chairman of

the Faculty Senate, the consultation of the entire Faculty Senate was not necessary to come to the decision to send a letter to trustees, administration and faculty calling for the resignation of Swygert.

A quorum of the executive council of the Faculty Senate is necessary to take any action on behalf of the rest of the 54-member council. The council represents the faculty of all of the schools and colleges and acts as the legislative body of the faculty.

In a March 6 meeting, the council of the Faculty Senate voted to send a letter saying that the board should begin looking for a new president. The council voted 16 to two, with one member abstaining from the vote.

A response to the letter is currently being prepared by university spokespeople and will be available later this week, according to a university spokeswoman.

An e-mail and a voice mail

message has been left with chair of the trustee board, Barry Rand Addison, requesting an interview.

Bremner said that although he knows that there are dissenters among the faculty, that he has only received one e-mail from a faculty member that opposed the decision.

"If the faculty wants to overturn the decision, they may come to us with anything they want to overturn," Bremner said. "They should realize if they bring it to the senate and try to oppose the decision, that's an affirmation of what is going on."

Bremner said that if the faculty members were polled, a majority would be unsatisfied with the university's direction and with the amount of resources given to teach their classes.

Richard Wright, Ph.D., voted in the March 6 vote. He said that the partnership between the faculty and the

administration is integral in ensuring that students leave the university with the tools they need to succeed.

"We have the beginning of the dialogue," Wright said about March 6. "About the quality of the relationship between the faculty and the administration."

He also said, "We have to use respect and partnership in strengthening the quality of the academic programs, faculty and administration are partners in building a strong academy."

Davis, who was not present at the March 6 meeting, said the letter should have presented both sides of the argument.

"My opinion is that president of any university has strengths and weaknesses," Davis said. "And that if you're going to put out a document that is going to list a lot of weaknesses, then you need to also comment on the positive things that have been done."

-- Additional reporting by
Traver Riggins, Staff Writer



The Faculty Senate decision to end President Swygert's term was not completely supported by the faculty.

Abortion Ban Overturn Debated

BY RASHAWN MITCHNER
Copy Editor

A sign reads, "Myth: Everyone agrees Roe v. Wade is good - constitutional law. Fact: Even pro-choice scholars admit its reasoning is suspect."

The signs have appeared in Metro buses and train stations in recent months. The campaign is sponsored by The

Second Look Project, which is an initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

The USCCB centers on two cases challenging the Federal Abortion Ban, otherwise known as the "Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003."

The two cases, Gonzales v. Carhart and Planned

Parenthood, went before the Supreme Court for a hearing on Nov. 8, 2006. A decision on the two cases is expected before the Supreme Court's session ends in July, according to Deirdre McQuade, the director of planning and information at the USCCB's Secretariat for Pro-Life Studies.

According to its Web site, www.secondlook-project.org, "The Second Look" Project offers

information to help people make informed decisions based on fact rather than emotion" in regards to abortion.

On each business day between Oct. 6 and Nov. 8, 2006, the organization sent e-cards with information about abortion to officials on Capitol Hill and the media. The cards were intended as a countdown to the Supreme Court hearing and featured descriptions of abortions by those who had either witnessed or performed them.

The ad campaign, which began last year in preparation for the November hearings, featured 1,212 posters on select Metro bus and train lines, as well as radio spots. McQuade says the campaign has since ended and that Metro will eventually remove the remaining signs.

"People object to the claims of the ads themselves," McQuade said. "They think we're not accurate." However, she said, The Second Look Project submitted proof of its findings to Metro for approval beforehand.

One group in opposition to The Second Look Project's See ABORTION, Page 3

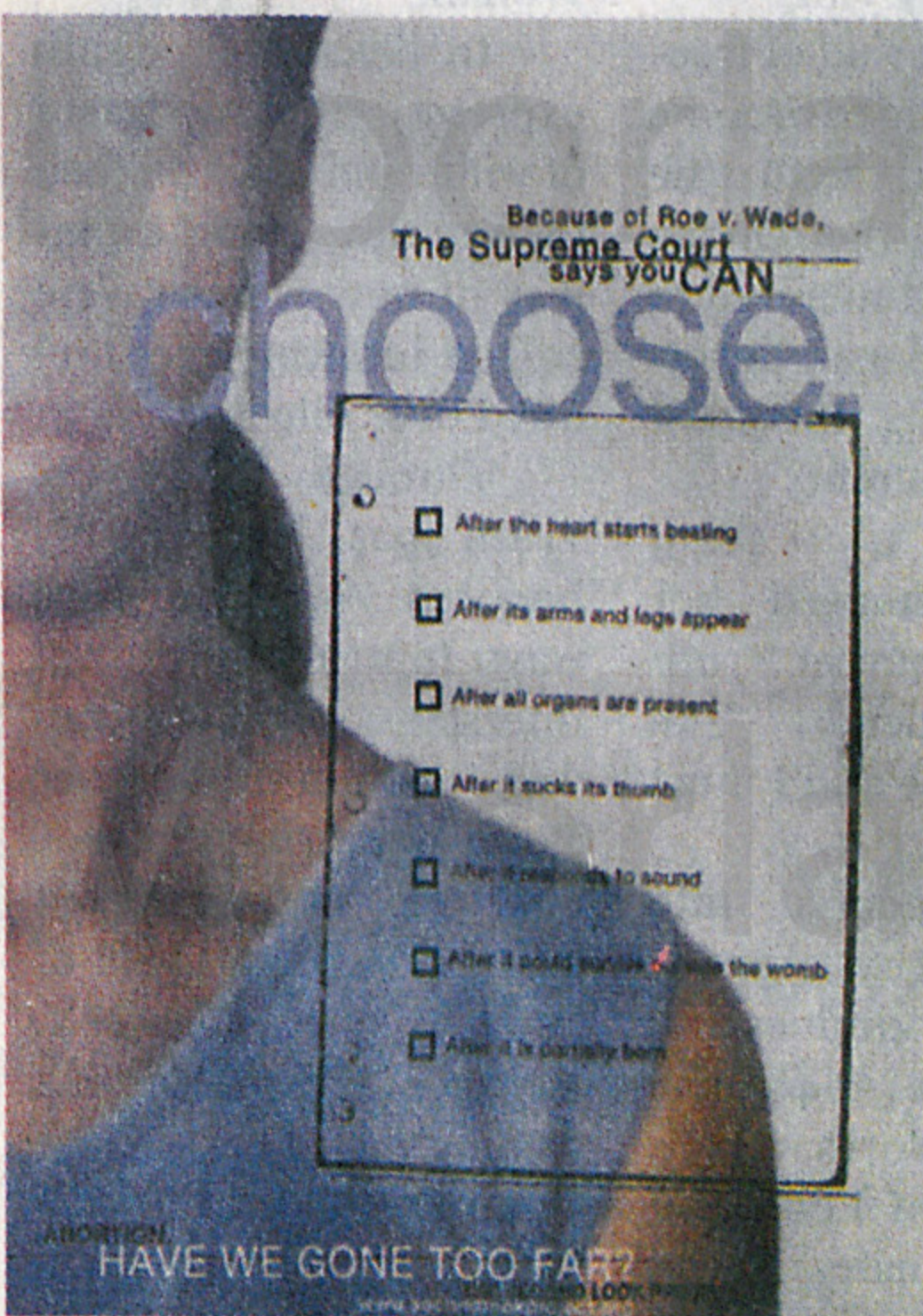


Photo courtesy of www.secondlookproject.org
Second Look Project advertisements aim to promote decisions based on information.

Army Surgeon General Kevin Kiley Fired and Replaced

BY MORGAN LYNCH
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Kevin Kiley was forced into retirement on March 12, 2007.

The announcement did not come as a surprise to many after the deplorable conditions discovered in the outpatient facility at the Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Kiley held the position of Surgeon General since September of 2004.

Along with his responsibility as surgeon general, Kiley was also in charge of the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command, which left him with the responsibility of its care standards.

What left many shocked was the fact that Kiley's home, which is on the Walter Reed's campus, actually overlooked the outpatient facility.

This has not been the first of firings to occur at Walter Reed since the scandal broke. The new defense secretary Robert Gates has



Photo Courtesy of www.NPR.org

Lt. Gen. Kevin Kiley was relieved of his duties as Surgeon General following uproar over outpatient conditions.

cracked down hard taking the first steps to approve the termination of Walter Reed's commander Maj. Gen. George Weightman, and soon after the most senior civilian within the Army chain of command, Army Secretary Francis Harvey.

Many do not believe that these will be the last terminations seen at Walter Reed.

The management team

at Walter Reed has seen no losses, but no one knows for certain how long that will last.

According to CNN.com, Army Secretary Pete Green commented about the scandal.

"A soldier who fights the battle shouldn't have to come home and fight the battle of bureaucracy."

Lt. Gen. Kiley has been replaced by Maj. Gen. Gale Pollock.

Engineering Panel Helps HU Students Seek Patents

BY EBONI FARMER
Hilltop Staff Writer

Howard University School of Engineering in conjunction with the Entrepreneurship Leadership and Innovation Institute (ELI) and Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett and Dunner LLP sponsored the first annual Patents and Technology Seminar yesterday.

Arthur Paul, Ph.D., is one of the professors of the patents and technology entrepreneurship course in which students participate in the process of developing patents for inventions during a semester of coursework. The idea to have the seminar is the result of the course.

"The course is meant to encourage students to go out and create their own patents and use their entre-

preneurship skills to better protect themselves in the corporate world," Paul said.

A panel of distinguished members in the corporate world gathered in Blackburn to share their knowledge of patenting and entrepreneurship. The seminar focused on letting students know the importance of patenting their inventions and how to go about getting a patent. The panelists also informed the audience exactly what patents are and what they do.

Anand Sharma, a partner of Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett and Dunner was the moderator of the panel.

The panel included Howard alumni Arthur Gooray, Ph.D., a senior Research Associate at Eastman Kodak company and Frank DeCosta III, a partner at the law firm of Finnegan,

Farabow, Farabow, Garrett and Dunner.

Vice President and Assistant General Counsel at Wachovia Corporation, Carmen Adams; Bert Jennings, an Intellectual Property Counsel for Halliburton Energy Services, Inc.; and Associate General Patent Counsel at the Cisco Company with Scientific Atlanta, Jose Duthill, rounded out the panel.

Arthur was the first panelist to address the question of why companies value patents.

"Companies value good patents because they help to shut out competitors and allow for more profit and revenue to come in," he said.

Jennings said patents allow companies to work deals before lawsuits have to be filed.

"With strong patents, companies

are able to avoid lawsuits and negotiate to get better deals with competing companies," Jennings said.

Wachovia has just recently added patents to its repertoire.

"At Wachovia, we use patents for defense against other companies. We are passive because we do have patents to protect us against lawsuits," Adams said.

The panel also discussed universities and the school patents. Universities like Stanford and Yale have hired patent lawyers that help researchers get their inventions patented as soon as possible.

"I'm happy to see historically black universities conducting research and getting patents," Jennings said.

Jennings continued by discussing how the search engine came about at Stanford University where graduate

students came up with the idea for their dissertation.

"We can do that here at Howard. Students have great ideas that have potential to make a lot of money," Jennings said.

Some of the ways panelists advised students on getting their patents and inventions bought by other companies is to put their ideas in journals and networking at corporate events. They also advised students to never write their own patents and do research to make sure the patents they are working on do not already exist.

Adams warned that when putting inventions in journals, it is important to have them patented. Without patents, there is no legal way to prevent others from stealing ideas and claiming them as their own.

Students For Sale

Students have become the 'cookies' in student auctions, the new bake sale.

BY DENISE HORN
Copy Editor

"Going once, going twice, sold," are the words an auctioneer says as a final bid is placed. But do not be fooled because the auction is not at the famous Sotheby's—it is taking place right on Howard's campus.

Recently, several campus organizations have hosted auctions to raise money for various causes. Eight organizations have hosted auction fundraisers during the months of February and March.

During the week of Valentine's Day, the Haitian Student Association (HSA) the women and men's lacrosse

teams and Pi Kappa Alpha all hosted auctions in which winners won dates with members of the hosting organizations.

On Feb. 12, (HSA) hosted its first auction. HSA Historian and junior psychology major Cedric Loiseau said, "I jokingly proposed the idea, but everyone liked it."

Once his idea was put into motion, the organization raised \$800 and donated the money to an orphanage in Haiti. After the success of the event, Loiseau said HSA plans to host another auction next year.

Last month the men and women's lacrosse teams cohosted an auction to raise money. Both intercollegiate club teams used the money to help with expenses such as referees, transportation, equipment and other expenses.

The advantage of auctions is they provide teams a high profit with very little costs.

With a little music, the audience placed bids as high as \$100, for members of both teams. With each member up for bid at the auction, nearly \$750 was raised at the end. Those who placed the highest bids won a group date with the lacrosse teams which will be held in the near future.

Finance major Chase Wheeler, who also serves as captain for the men's team said, "The auction was very successful and we plan to have another auction next year."

Graphic design major and lacrosse player Ben Lewis likes auctions because they are fun,

present students the chance to meet more students.

"An auction gives you the opportunity to put yourself out there and have fun with people. For some it may help them find love," Lewis said.

On Friday, Gamma Sigma Sigma Sorority and Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity hosted the Risqué Indulgence Date Auction in Blackburn Reading Lounge. Those who placed the highest bid won a date as well as free VIP acceptance for the auction's after party at the nightclub Platinum. With music by DJ Anonymous and some attendees of the event won door prizes.

A national service organization, Gamma Sigma Sorority, Alpha Eta Chapter has one community service activity each month. As one of the coordinators for the auction, senior physical therapy major and member Tasheika Stone agreed that an auction is one of the easiest and quickest ways to make money.

"We needed to do something and we needed to raise money fast," Stone said.

Since March is National Multiple Sclerosis Month, some of the money raised during the auction was donated to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

So take out the paddle and get ready to place a bid because recent events show whether it is for an organization's own fundraising or to promote support for a cause, auctions are the one of the latest trends to hit Howard's campus.



Ishmael Ahmad- Staff Photographer

Lacrosse players Ed Carter and Shanon Morris participated in an auction that raised nearly \$750 for team expenses.

Work Continues Post-Election Season

BY TRAVER RIGGINS
Hilltop Staff Writer

Prior to the commencement of election season, the General Elections Commission has been working to organize election season by doing everything from candidate administration behind the scenes to organizing public speak outs.

However, with the election season coming to an official end today, the commission will not stop toiling until the middle of next week. In addition the final reports they are required to submit to the General Assembly, the commission is taking on an initiative to clean up the way General Elections is organized.

The committee opened the door to their office this year to a dead computer, an unsure budget, and only a copy paper box of previous information regarding their duties.

"If you didn't know the committee from last year, you wouldn't know anything about it," said Allen Haynes, General Elections commissioner.

The commission had few records and little information to base their operations off of and leaned heavily on previous experience in student government and the coaching of members of past commission who they were fortunate enough to have contact with.

"I think the only reason that any of us were able to make it as far as we have and been as successful as we have been is because we've all had experience in student government before," said Chanelle McCoy, director of programming for General Elections.

"If I didn't have that experience already it would have been very tough to figure out, 'Well alright, what do I do now?'" McCoy added.

The commission will be assembling a "detailed, complete start-up guide for who-

ever is in the position in the next years so they can go to class and still have elections go off without a hitch," Haynes said.

The guide will have everything from information regarding special elections circumstances to pre-made tables and charts for organizing data. Haynes is counting on the guide to cut down on the unexpected last minute tasks to minimize duplicate effort. Instead of multiple trips to submit advertisements or make copy requests, it can all be handled at one time.

"It's something that we didn't anticipate doing, but we'll be putting in extra time after elections end," Haynes said.

This year, the commission ran into problems with the trustee candidates and their eligibility to be on the ballot. The trustee position is separate from Howard University Student Association elections and must be approved by the Board of Trustees before campaigning is allowed to begin. There was no documentation of such stipulations and the commission found themselves scurrying to amend a mistake they could not have foreseen.

"There are certain things that you need to know up-front so that you can not make those mistakes," Haynes said.

Haynes' main concern is ensuring that there is enough time for the commission to get set up and ready to work before they have to accept candidate applications.

"Things need to be put in place before the first semester ends so that once the second semester begins you can just hit the ground running," Haynes said.

The commission is comprised of seven individuals who will each contribute a part of the start up guide according to their assignments with the commission.

Myla Jones, the director of administration, was responsible for overseeing main components of the commission with attention to finances.

"We really need to work together with General Assembly to make sure that we get our money up front," Jones said.

The commission began action at the beginning of spring semester, but did not have its budget approved until February. Commission members were forced to come out of their own pockets to provide the office with missing operational supplies, advertisements in *The Hilltop* and gifts for panelists of the first speak out.

Jones said that the approximately \$750 a few commission official contributed together hurt them because

they all have bills to pay. She hopes that the start-up guide will encourage more cooperation with General Assembly so that future commission will improve.

"I don't know why they haven't done it in previous years. It should be in the guidelines that each committee needs to report on their experience so that each year elections can get better and better," Jones said.

Haynes is also counting on the guide to decrease the stress levels the commission endures and prevent the work from spilling over into other aspects of the students lives, even causing them to miss classes on a consistent basis.

"They come at you constantly," he said. "You're always playing catch-up."



Derrell Smith - Senior Photo Editor

Although elections officially end today, the General Elections Committee still has plenty of duties to fulfill.

What's In A Name?

A Look at the Namesakes of Howard University



Truth Hall

BY KISHANDA OLIVER
Contributing Writer

Truth Hall is one of the five halls inside of the Harriet Tubman Quadrangle and it is dedicated to the memory of Sojourner Truth, born Isabella Baumfree.

Born into slavery around 1797 on the Hardenbergh estate in Swartekill, N.Y., Truth was one of 13 children, to James and Betsy Baumfree, who were also slaves of Colonel Hardenbergh. She spoke only Dutch until she was sold along with a herd of sheep in 1806.

In late 1826, Truth escaped to freedom with her infant daughter. She had to leave her other children behind because they were not legally freed in the emancipation order until they had served as bound servants into their twenties.

"I did not run off, for I thought that wicked, but I walked off, believing that to be all right," Truth is known for saying.

After a period of freedom, Truth had to become "overwhelmed with the greatness of the Divine presence" and inspired to preach. She began devotedly attending the local Methodist church.

June 1, 1843, Baumfree changed her name to Sojourner Truth and told friends, "The Spirit calls me and I must go."

She wandered into virtual obscurity, depending on the kindness of strangers. In 1844, she joined the Northampton Association of Education and Industry in Massachusetts. This group

of 240 members lived on 500 acres of farmland, raising livestock, running grist and saw mills, as well as operating a silk factory. The Association was founded by abolitionists to promote cooperative and productive labor. They were religiously tolerant, women's rights supporters, and pacifist in principles.

It was finally time for the world to know about Truth's life and in 1850, "The Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Northern Slave" was privately published by William Lloyd Garrison. It gave her an income and increased her speaking engagements, where she sold copies of the book. She spoke about various issues relevant to black women such as anti-slavery and women's rights, often giving personal testimony about her experiences as a slave.

At the Ohio Woman's Rights Convention in 1854 she gave her most famous speech, "Ain't I a Woman?"

In the speech, Truth expressed the treatment of white and black women in America, using examples of how women were helped into carriages and lifted over ditches.

Through the years, Truth has been highly honored in numerous ways. In 1976, a portion of interstate 66 in Michigan was named Sojourner Truth Memorial Highway. She was also inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, N.Y. Her face was placed on a commemorative postage stamp in 1986. In 1997, a Mars probe was named in her honor.

A copy of The Hilltop and \$1.35 will get you on the Metro.*

Medical Organizations Oppose Abortion Ban

ABORTION, From Page 1

support of the Federal Abortion Ban is the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR), which filed the Gonzales v. Carhart suit. According to its Web site, www.reproductive-rights.org, the Center for Reproductive Right, "is a non-profit legal advocacy organization dedicated to promoting and defending women's reproductive rights worldwide."

The CRR has several objections to the Federal Abortion Ban. The first is that it would outlaw safe abortions performed as early as the 12th week of pregnancy. Another contention is that the ban is too broad in its definition of abortion methods.

In addition, the CRR says the law makes no provisions for when the mother's health is at risk due to pregnancy. In the 1973 case of Doe v. Bolton,

maternal health was defined as "all factors - physical, emotional, psychological, familial and the woman's age - relevant to the well being of the patient."

McQuade said this definition is far too broad and encompasses any reason a woman would possibly seek an abortion.

Several medical organizations, including the American College of Obstetricians and

Gynecologists (ACOG) and the American Nurses Association also oppose the ban.

"This case is about whether the new [John] Roberts-led Supreme Court will follow 30 years of settled law that restrictions on abortion may not endanger women's health. This case is part of the far right wing agenda to erode Roe v. Wade step by step," said CRR President Nancy Northrup in a press release.

Freshman biology major Dinah Pena recently saw a Second Look Project ad in a Metro station. "I was kinda confused because it was worded funny," she said.

Pena, who is pro-choice, said several factors should come into play when considering abortion.

"Everyone talks about why you should get an abortion, but no one talks about the after effects."

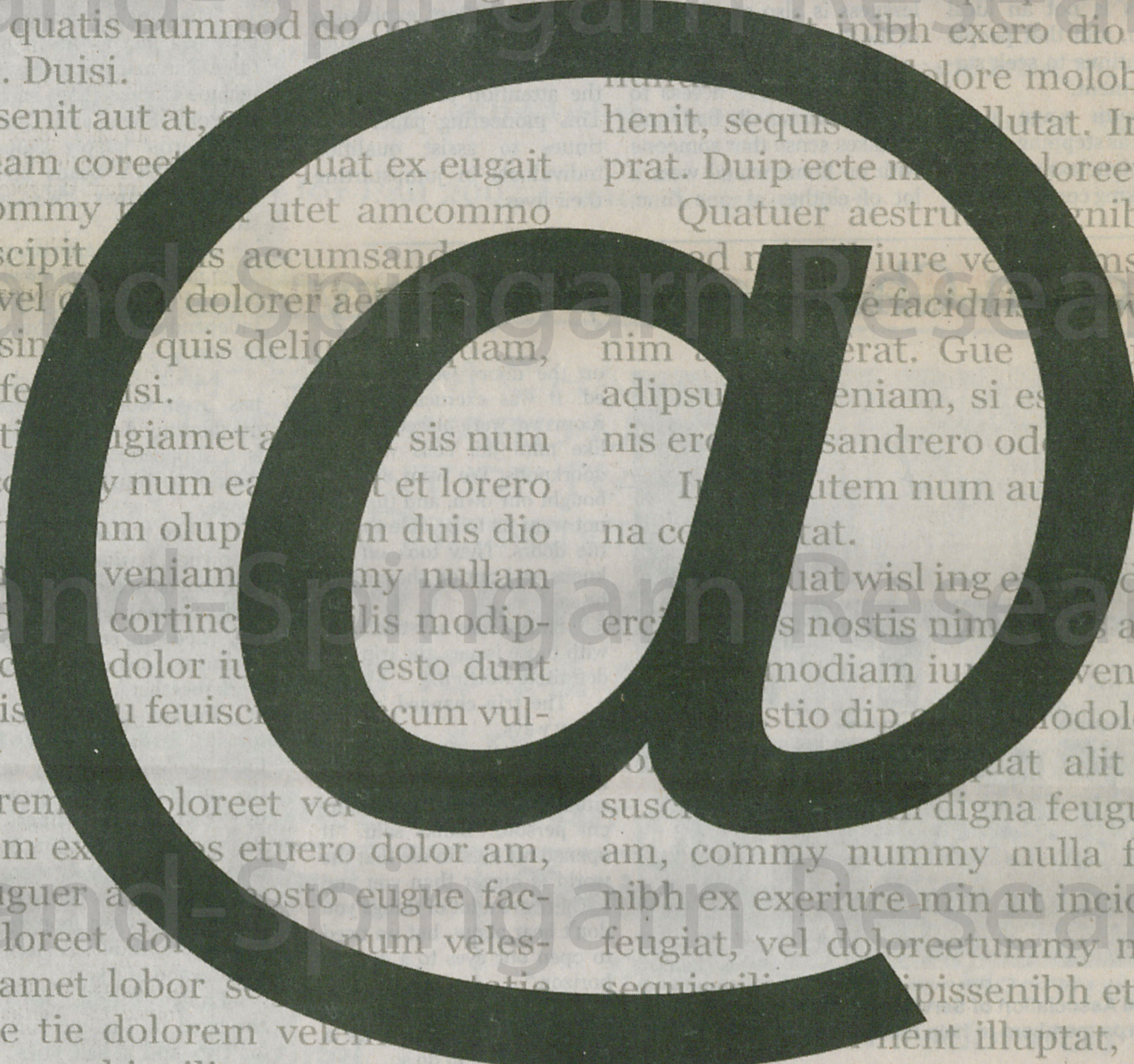
Junior sports medicine Adeyinka Adewetan is also pro-choice. However, Adewetan believes adoption is a better alternative than abortion.

"If you get pregnant and the sex was consensual and you get rid of the baby, that's kinda 50-50 with me," Adewetan said.

He added that people who have sex should be ready for the responsibility becoming pregnant.

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'Street Sense' Keeps Homeless Standing

BY AMARIS NOBLE
Contributing Writer

The abrupt end of a 32-year marriage left Jessie Smith depressed, causing him to abandon a close-knit family, a job paying \$72,000 a year and a Maryland suburban home.

After months of sleeping on New York, New Jersey and District park benches, the middle-aged nomad temporarily settled at Washington, D.C.'s Franklin Shelter on 13th and K streets Northwest, where he was introduced to a unique newspaper and the opportunity to earn money. The rest is history.

Smith's situation is all too familiar to many poor and homeless District individuals. Since November 2003, the Street Sense newspaper has been dedicated to raising public awareness of issues related to poverty and homelessness while helping homeless individuals get back on their feet economically and providing them with the opportunity to be published.

Vendor profiles, poverty-related news articles, poems, editorials written by homeless individuals and writings by social activists are assembled by local volunteers to create a 20-page publication, with new issues hitting the streets on the first and 15th of every month.

"I believe that finding Street Sense was a divine intervention," Smith, who is now the paper's first vendor manager, said. "When I started writing and getting

out into the city to sell the papers, I came alive again."

At any given metro stop or bustling shopping center, current and former homeless vendors sporting conspicuous neon vests can be seen selling the Street Sense paper.

"After homeless individuals hear about the paper, they come in for an

Street Sense's profile of then-homeless Mark Walker and offered him a full-time position. Virginia native Johnny White now works in the District public school system after Street Sense spruced up his resume.

Not just anyone can be a part of the Street Sense team. After three visits, new vendors receive a permanent

but to deem these people ignorant drug addicts is not fair," Smith said. "Someone's appearance has nothing to do with how they think, and many of our vendors are intelligent and even have college degrees."

Several Street Sense vendors are forced to adjust their agendas to comply with soup kitchen hours and long



Where the Washington area's poor and homeless earn and give their two cents

Photo courtesy streetsense.org

Homeless people in the District have sold Street Sense for \$1 since November 2003. The newspaper vendors keep 75 cents per paper, and some afford apartments on this income.

hour training session, which is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.," Smith said. "We make sure that they can read, show them a video of other vendors in action for encouragement and give them 10 free papers to start with."

Street Sense vendors pay 25 cents for each paper to cover publishing costs and sell them for \$1 each.

"We also try to create services for our vendors, such as writing resumes, [helping] vendors get attorneys when necessary and [helping] homeless persons get IDs to apply for other jobs," Smith said. "Street Sense stresses the fact that selling stacks of our papers is not an ideal occupation, and that people should continue to seek stable employment."

Minimum wage positions serve as stepping stones for many homeless vendors.

A trucking company read

badge and sign a code of conduct, agreeing to treat every staff member with respect and to distribute Street Sense alcohol- and drug-free. Ignoring these rules results in dismissal from the paper.

According to Smith, Street Sense managers seldom have to lay down the law.

"People are usually shocked by the level of professionalism that they see from these homeless people," Smith said. The monthly paper generally sparks the interest of middle class women and business persons.

Disproving negative stereotypes concerning homelessness is also an objective of the Street Sense team.

"Of course, someone who doesn't have access to a bathroom smells bad, and it makes sense that someone with no home would wear a lot of clothes at one time,

shelter lines.

"At Franklin, I got up at 6 a.m. because check-out time was 7 a.m.," Smith said. "By 8 [a.m.], I would eat at Marian's Kitchen on 13th and K Northwest, walk from 23rd and G Northwest, to 13th and G Northwest, to Street Sense."

After reserving his night spot at Franklin by 5 p.m., Smith returned to the streets, selling papers until 7 p.m. or 8 p.m.

Although each paper only garners a 75 cent profit, many dedicated vendors are able to maintain apartments on a Street Sense income.

Smith related the paper to the Metro section of the Washington Post, explaining that it features local issues that need to be brought to the attention of the nation. This pioneering paper continues to assist qualified individuals in jumpstarting their lives.

The Metro: Stop by Stop Takoma Park Station

BY LAURA PEREZ
Contributing Writer

When looking for places to eat and shop in Washington, D.C., Howard students often choose the same familiar hangouts every week. Many do not realize that other options exist and are only a few metro stops away. The Takoma Park neighborhood is a perfect example of this phenomenon.

Although unfamiliar to most college students, Takoma Park has the potential to be a new shopping and dining hot spot. The heart of Takoma Park is four blocks away from the metro, but there is a CVS and a 7-Eleven right across the street from the station.

The walk to the center of Takoma Park is an experience in itself. Old fashioned brick sidewalks and numerous benches for visitors to rest on give the neighborhood a welcoming feel.

The main shopping area has just as much to offer. The many businesses include vintage shops such as Polly Sue's and Glad Rags, artist supply shops such as S&A Beads and numerous other specialty stores.

Residents appreciate Takoma Park's small town feel and embrace the area's independently owned businesses.

Karen Leeman, who has been working in the neighborhood for 10 years, is a supporter of Takoma Park's privately owned shops.

"I like the small, family owned businesses. The neighborhood really tries to keep out the big box retailers," Leeman said. "Local business owners really work together."

The area is also known for its reasonably priced food available at many of the neighborhood's family owned restaurants. Residents' favorite spots to eat include Mark's Kitchen, which specializes in vegetarian and vegan food, as well as the Middle Eastern Cuisine and Market.

Emily Brecht, who has lived in Takoma Park for two and a half years, enjoys eating at many of the neighborhood's undis-

covered restaurants.

"The food is delicious, but not many people go there. It's nice though because there's rarely a wait," Brecht said.

For people looking for alternatives to the usual eating and hopping, Takoma Park has a newly built community center with basketball and tennis courts and an indoor swimming pool.

Outdoor hangouts are popular as well. The weekly farmer's market and Sligo Creek Park are both only a few blocks away.

"It's great. There's a park, and there are a lot of really nice places to walk," Brecht said.

And the entire neighborhood, with so many attractions to offer visitors, is still growing.

"There are always ongoing improvements," Leeman said. "Several businesses open each year."

However, some people say that Takoma Park is changing too fast.

Shauna Miller, who has lived in Takoma Park for six years and grew up nearby, believes that the neighborhood is being affected by all the growth and development.

"My parents grew up around here. It used to be kind of hippie. Now it's a little harder to buy a house here, but it still has a hometown feel," she said.

Despite slowly rising property values, Takoma Park is still known for its independent businesses, community-oriented design and friendly residents.

"It's still known as a really hippie place," Lecht said. "More people are moving here, but everyone on a first name basis."

Aside from a small town atmosphere and family owned shops, the neighborhood's location makes it even more unique.

"Takoma Park is partly in D.C. and partly in Montgomery County, a variety of people come to visit," Brecht said.

Howard students would benefit from experiencing this unusual and often ignored area.

The Takoma Park neighborhood is metro-accessible and is a short walk from the Takoma Park station on the red line.

Delinquent Youth Changed By Agency

BY CHRISTIA RAVENELL
Contributing Writer

Hearing about the government's slow response to victims of New Orleans, Jamal Banks, 20, wanted to help the city.

His friend Desiree Mitchell, 25, a program coordinator at the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS), gave Banks a flyer about an initiative called the Gulf Coast Recovery Corps.

The National Association of Service and Conservation Corps (NASCC) in partnership with the DYRS and Earth Conservation Corps (ECC) created the three-year program, now in its first year, to help delinquent youth reconnect to communities through civic works.

About 250 corps members from across the country will be sent to the Gulf Coast of Mississippi for a month at a time to complete home reconstruction, debris removal and restoration and conservation projects.

The seven District corps members and eight staff collectively committed more than 4,500 hours—300 hours per person—of community service split evenly between the District and the Gulf Coast during a two-month period.

Sponsored in part by AmeriCorps, members will be compensated for room, board and travel expenses and will be given a stipend. At the end of their four weeks of service, corps members are presented with an educational award which provides them with funds to pursue college, vocational school or any other education.

The end goal is to establish a permanent Mississippi Corps that will recruit local youth to provide community service to the area.

Banks, a Georgia native and District resident since January 2001, jumped at the



Photo courtesy Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services

The National Association of Service and Conservation Corps sent 250 corps members to help rebuild parts of Mississippi.

chance.

"Getting on an airplane was indescribable," Banks said. "Everybody was getting to know each other, and we had to fend for ourselves the first day. We were all alone down there. If anything had to be done, we had to do it. All in all, it was a wacky first day."

Mitchell said that all of the members of the group, aged 17 to 20, had never been on an airplane and most had never been to the South. The group went to Hancock County, Miss.

They had seen the news in the media, but they were not prepared for the degree of devastation they witnessed. Banks had not known that any areas other than New Orleans had been hit by Hurricane Katrina before he joined the trip.

"I got there and was like wow. A tragic set of events happened. I wasn't aware that Mississippi was hit like it was," Banks said of the first time he saw the devastation.

The group was made up of all black corps members.

"There are pockets of African Americans in D.C. where they may never interact with others of different races," Mitchell said. "The trip forced them to be around other races. It was a good and challenging experience."

In the last week of their stay, corps members met an older black woman in her 60s named Ms. Johnny. She was becoming a first-time homeowner, and the members drywalled her house. They found a TV and toaster oven and gave it to her as a gift.

Banks said that he did not really care who he was helping. He just wanted to feel like he was doing something.

Banks also said that it would have been nice to help people of color, but he did not really look at color while on the service trip. However, he did recognize the racism that was apparent in the area. He felt like an outsider and spoke of a particularly painful memory.

"The Caucasian partners in Mississippi put doorknobs

on the doors we had created. It was excruciating. The rooms we were placed in were like mini jail cells with no doorknobs. We went out and bought our own, and they did not want us to be able to lock the doors. They took off our knobs and put on their own," he said.

Banks does say that even with those issues, the trip was definitely worth it.

The trip changed him in many ways.

"I see that it could happen here, and if I was in their situation, I would be a different person," Banks said. "It opened my eyes to see that the world is bigger than you and I. There are a lot of things you don't hear about, but we need to open our eyes to a greater horizon."

Banks would love to go back as soon as there is a chance for him to do so.

Matt Ferris, the grants and projects director at the NASCC, said that the members had a "life-changing experience. Some spoke at a conference following their return and told others about how incredible the experience was for them."

Banks and four other members were funneled into the Civic Justice Corps and ECC. Like the Gulf Coast Recovery Corps, the members are paid and receive an educational award. The ECC is a five-month program that includes job training and conservation projects.

Banks enjoyed the program and was recently accepted into Georgia Tech. If finances allow, he will attend. Otherwise, he plans to go to a junior college. He wants to pursue computer technology or mechanics. Banks said he does not have any idea what he would be doing now if he had not gone on the trip.

Banks has only two words for the Gulf Coast Recovery Corps, "Thank you."



Derrell Smith-Senior Photo Editor

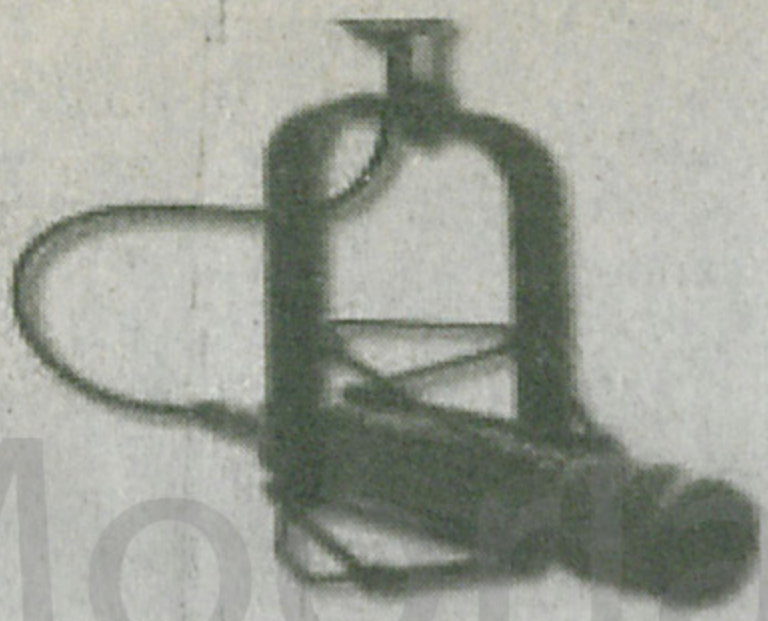
Like many other Metro stops, the Takoma Park station has a rich history of family businesses and recreation.

Fall 2007

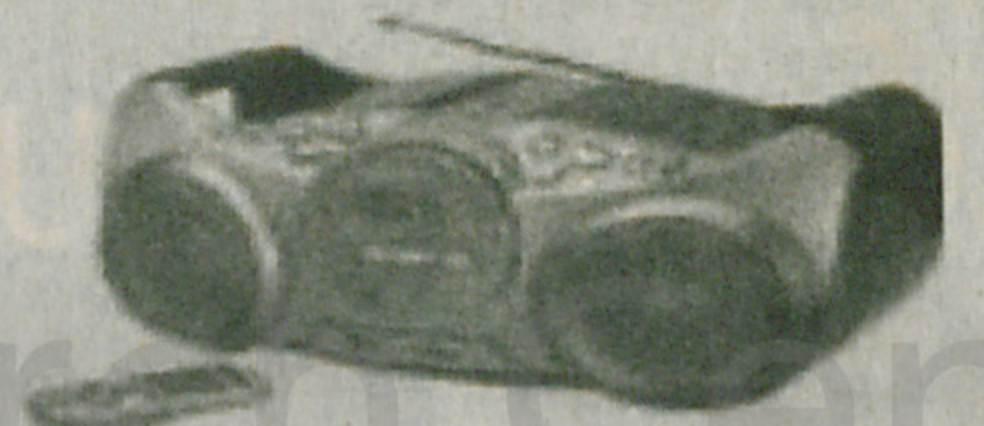
Monday, March 26 – Friday, April 6
Bison Web, 9am to Midnight

DAY	DATE	CLASSIFICATION*
Monday	March 26	Senior
Tuesday	March 27	Junior/2nd Year Law / 3rd Year Law/LLM
Wednesday	March 28	Sophomore/Unclassified/ 1st Year Law
Thursday	March 29	Freshman/Unclassified
Friday	March 30	Graduate
Saturday	March 31	All Students
Sunday	April 1	All Students
Monday	April 2	All Students
Tuesday	April 3	All Students
Wednesday	April 4	All Students
Thursday	April 5	All Students
Friday	April 6	All Students

- ◆ Students are required to meet with their academic advisors for discussion and approval of proposed course selections before using BISON Web.
- ◆ Alternate PINs are required for all students in the College of Arts & Sciences with 75 or more credit hours.
- ◆ Alternate PINs are required for all students in the Division of Fine Arts regardless of classification.
- ◆ Alternate PINs are required for most students. Please check BISON Web.
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The Hilltop Survey Says...

The Hills

Survey Says...

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FAMU Rattlers Set to Play in NCAA Tourney

BY ROYCE STRAHAN
Contributing Writer

Florida A&M's last-second 58-56 victory over Delaware State in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Tournament sealed its passage to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) men's basketball tournament. The MEAC tournament champion receives an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament each year, although this year, the conference's lone representative must first feature in the play-in round.

There, the bottom two teams in the tournament overall will face off for the chance to enter the field of 64. The MEAC had an automatic qualifying bid in men's basketball since 1981. The MEAC has been successful in past tournaments, though this year marks the third time in the last four years that the conference is appearing in the Play-In round. ESPN's Sportscenter Top Ten All-Time upsets in NCAA tournament history featured two of the MEAC's teams in these years.

Through the years, MEAC had three expansions with the last two being in Hampton University in 1995 and Norfolk State University in 1997, which brought the total number of schools in the MEAC to 11.

The reason some believe the tournament is bad for the teams is that the MEAC Tournament winner has to face a top seeded team in the NCAA Tournament.



Brian Greene of Florida A&M celebrates after his game-winning shot against Delaware State sent the Rattlers into the NCAA Tournament.

Dwight Datcher, athletics director of Howard University, believes the tournament is a great experience for MEAC teams even though they have to face a top seed in the first

round of the tournament.

Datcher said, "[The MEAC tournament] is very beneficial to the teams. Teams go through the entire year working hard to get to their goal

and they go into their games with positive attitudes even if they are playing a team that is ranked higher."

MEAC Commissioner Dennis Thomas, Ph.D., said the tournament helps teams who have hopes of advancing to the NCAA Tournament.

"I don't think anything is negative about [the MEAC tournament]," Thomas said. "It's always positive when you can be selected and be successful out of over three hundred teams."

As a former collegiate athlete, Datcher gave accounts of being motivated by playing a team that was better on paper.

"If you can't get excited to play the number one or one of the top seeded teams, you're on the wrong team. A team should get excited about having the opportunity to play the number one team," Datcher said.

Thomas said winning non-conference games should be an important priority on MEAC team's lists.

"I just think that teams have to keep improving their program and keep winning non-conference games. If teams play good quality non-conference opponents and are successful, their chances will be greater to advance to the NCAA Tournament."

The Rattlers tournament win gave them their fourth MEAC Tournament crown since 1991 and their second in four years. Defeating the Jayhawks of Kansas would be a challenging task for either team, but according to Thomas, an upset is

SCOREBOARD & SCHEDULE

SCORES

None

UPCOMING GAMES

Lacrosse vs. Manhattan @ Greene Stadium
4 p.m. (Today)

Women's and Men's Tennis vs. UDC @ Banneker
2 p.m. (Wed.)

Women's and Men's Tennis @ Towson
2 p.m. (Thur.)

Track and Field @ UNC-Wilmington
Fri.-Sat.

always possible.

"During tournament week I'm never surprised," he said. "All of a sudden teams are upsetting other teams that are better on paper, but that's what March Madness is all about."

HU Alumna Ball Leads Team to Md. High School Championship



Photo courtesy of Carroll Smith - All Pro Photo

Former Howard University women's basketball player Ayana Ball (located in the center, wearing a business suit) coached Largo High School to victory in the Maryland 3A State championship game, defeating Western 60-42.

Ball's coaching staff also includes fellow Howard alumni Simone Agee and Essence Coggins.

Ball played on Largo's previous state title winning basketball in 1997 before leading the team to its second championship in school history in her second year as head coach. She was a forward on Howard's basketball team from 2000-2003.

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY...

On March 13, 1960, the Chicago White Sox unveiled new road uniforms featuring players' names on the back above the numbers.

Facebook Gets in on The 'Madness' With NCAA Pools

BY WINNIE CLARK-JENKINS
Hilltop Staff Writer

With "March Madness" in full swing, Facebook has helped students jump into the college basketball craze as well as through NCAA Tournament pools.

This is the second year in a row the social networking site has offered NCAA Division I men's basketball pools to its users.

"I started a pool last year and Facebook had a feature that allowed me to refresh the group from last year and invite all the same people back," said Stan Johnson, a senior accounting

really serious about the pool. This year we are all going to put in a few dollars and whoever wins will get the money."

This year, not only are individual pools placing their bets on certain teams, but the Web site is promoting cash prizes as the reward for whoever can fill out the winning bracket.

Facebook users can fill out their bracket for what they predict the outcome to be, all the way down to the final four teams that will meet in Atlanta on March 31.

The grand prize is \$25,000 and prizes trickle down to \$250 for fifth through tenth place winners. The prize money is paid for by sponsors for the Web site such as Geico and Southwest airlines.

There are also round-by-round prizes of smaller amounts for teams that make it past the first four rounds.

"I always have a team in the final four," said junior public relations major Devon Miller. "I am pretty good with my pools. I have been doing them for seven years now. I am a big college basketball fan."

It seems like during the

month of March, sports fans are stuck in the trance of college basketball with emotions high, perhaps more than some play-offs for even professional sports.

"I just like college basketball better, there is more at stake and there are more upsets," Johnson said.

Many Howard students have joined these pool groups already, however some just look at it as another Facebook gimmick and join just for fun.

"I don't really know anything about the pools or what they are all about," Camille Webster, a junior fashion merchandising major said. "I just know that they are something Facebook does every year, so I just joined because a friend invited me into one."

Although some see it as just another group to join on Facebook, others are excited about the upcoming tournaments and their results. Pools are done on a point system, giving the person with the highest amount of points the win for that pool.

Despite many of the serious basketball fans, many of the groups are just purely for fun and have no monetary rewards for the group members, just bragging rights.

Facebook users can make their predictions until March 15.

Round one of the NCAA tournament will be played on March 13 when FAMU plays against Niagara.



major.

After the NCAA released the selections for the 2007 tournament on Sunday, Facebook set up brackets for pool members to make their predictions.

The basketball pools work much like Facebook groups, users can choose from the numerous pools created by other users or create their own.

Johnson started his own group called "Stan's Pool" that currently has 25 members, 20 of which are Howard students.

"We really love the tournament," Johnson said. "We are

it's sandal season

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He Said

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She Said



Shopping



Photo courtesy www.uni-plastic.com

In general, shopping is simple for men. First, you recognize that there is something that you need or want that you don't have.

Second, you go to the store, mall, Web site, etc. Third, you buy the item and leave. It is really that simple.

Yet, for the female sex, this seemingly simple task becomes more complex. While shopping for men is more of an objective mission, for women the task can be likened to a national pastime.

When I asked a fellow male Hilltopper about how long it takes him to shop, on average the answer I received supported my point. He responded saying that it depended on what he was shopping for. When I clarified the question to shopping for shirt I was met with, "What kind of shirt?"

This type of exchange continued on for quite some time until the article of clothing was narrowed down to a specific item. This further shows how shopping for men is not a hobby or a recreational event

but, most simply, a mission to recover a particular item.

When I posed the same question to women on *The Hilltop* staff the answer was given more readily. One responded with "forever and a day" while another replied, "One to three hours."

Both responses were given without a question to clarify what it was they were shopping for, where they were shopping, or what their budget was.

According to the National Travel Survey by the Department of Transport, one in four of women's trips are for the purpose of shopping.

These statistics hold true in the realm of online shopping as well. In 2003, online transactions were lead by women with 60 percent of all online purchases, according to statistics compiled by BizRate.

Clearly men and women

look at shopping in a different light. So with that being said, ladies don't be upset if your guy gets bored on your four-hour shopping trip. His boredom is not reflective of you, it's just that shopping as a recreational activity is just not in our nature.

"So much to buy, so little time."

This is the motto that some women live by. Never would I assert this is the case for all women, but I know a woman or two who enjoys the occasional session of retail therapy, a good ol' round

of bargain hunting and even a mad dash.

In recent discussion with a few male friends of mine and they were discussing how they feel like women shop far more than men.

Well, according to numbers released by WSL Strategic Retail, the gap between men and women consumers closed in about 2002.

Their numbers say "younger men make 3.6 shopping trips a week, compared to 4.1 by younger women."

They also report "younger men visit an average of 1.6 stores, nearly as many as visited by younger women (1.9)."

So, with the squashing of the myth that women shop expotentially more than men, the question still remains of why women seem to spend so much more time shopping?

Through discussion

with the same gentlemen, it seems to all of us that there's a difference in the way the genders approach shopping. One male said, "Men go shopping with a mission and women look at it as a pastime."

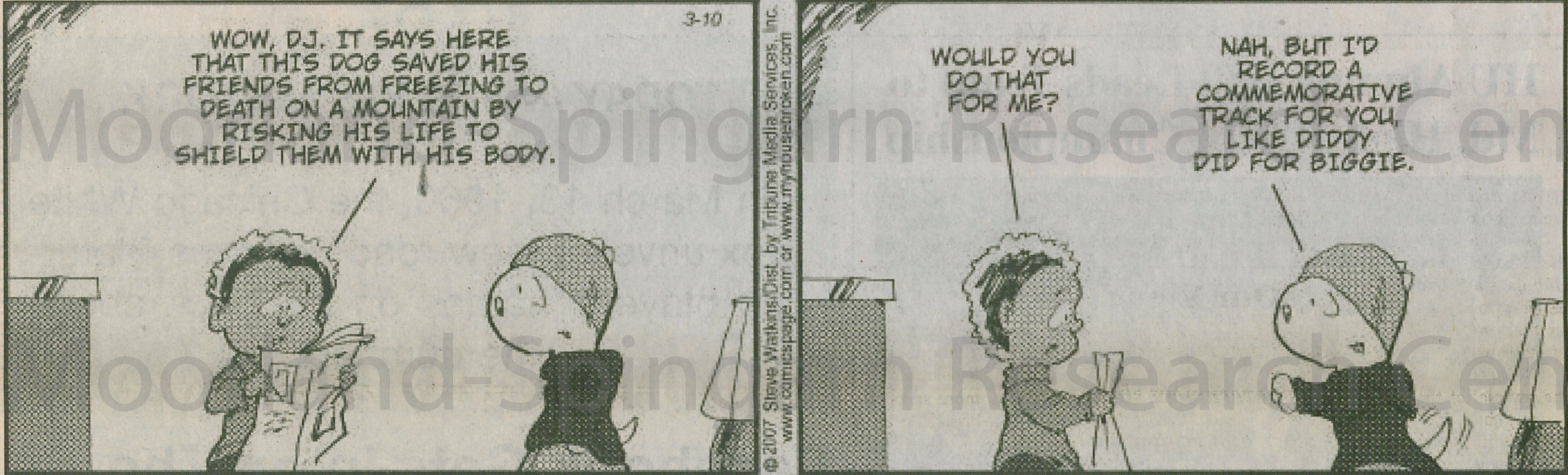
Perhaps, we do engage in more recreational shopping, but there's also a possibility that when we shop with a purpose we have a more specific notion of what we need and won't be content until we find something that fulfills all the grand expectations we've built up in our heads.

If I feel desperately in need of a solid chocolate blazer in a structured fabric, I'm not gonna be satisfied with one that's too light, or too thin, or not quite a solid color, because I've already created the perfect ensemble in my head,

But, you know what they say: This is why we're hot. We're hot cause we're fly, so maybe you ain't cause you're not.

From the Minds of Joshua Thomas & Jana Homes

HOUSEBROKEN



Word Search

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Illinois	Montana		

Puzzle courtesy of www.free-online-word-search-puzzles.com

Overheard @ The Mecca

When Asking Favors Goes Wrong
Overheard in The Towers

Semi-Annoying Guy: Can you do me a favor?
Semi-Annoyed Guy: What?
Semi-Annoying Guy: Can you do me two favors?
Semi-Annoyed Guy: What?
Semi-Annoying Guy: (asks for something he's asked for three times already and was already told to wait for)
Semi-Annoyed Guy: Can I. . .
smack you across the face with this chair?
Semi-Annoying Guy: . . .
Semi-Annoyed Guy: Listen, I'm gonna be here and you're gonna be here. I'll get to it when I get to it.

Cause She's Bad or Cause She's Light-Skinned?
Overheard in Adams Morgan

Shelterless Gentleman: Hey, sister. You got some spare change?
Brown-Skinned Howard Girl: (pretends not to hear him)
Light-Skinned Howard Girl: (reaches into pocket)
Shelterless Gentleman: Well, fine. I wish I could be like Michael Jackson so I could forget about black people, too.
LSHG: I was about to give you some money, but I guess that's too bad.

Check out more at Overheardatthemecca.blogspot.com and submit to Overheardatthemecca@gmail.com

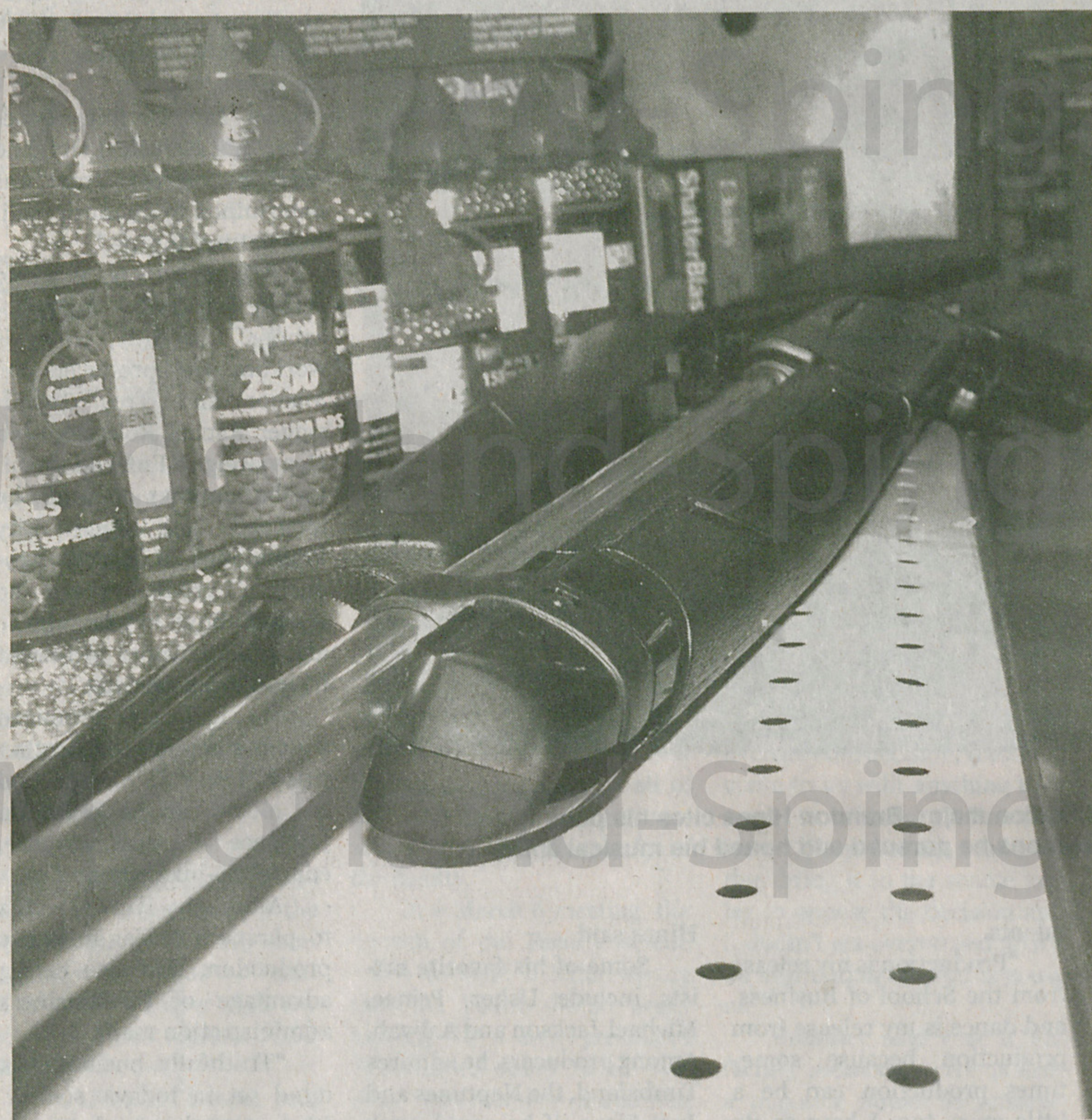
Please send any responses to *Meccanisms*; 'He Said . . . She Said' topics, things you've Overheard @ The Mecca or any other contributions to meccanisms@gmail.com

EDITORIALS *&* Perspectives

VOLUME 90, NO. 105

MARCH 13, 2007

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM



31-Year Gun Ban Overturned

A 31-year ban on personal firearms in the District of Columbia was just overturned. Opposition to the law fought the ban citing that the Second Amendment protects their right to bear arms.

Just like the residents of the District, *The Hilltop* staff had differing opinions on this newly overturned law.

Some felt that the reversal of the ban would not make a difference. Many people who feel they require guns for their defense would have them regardless of whether it was legal or not.

Secondly, average citizens with firearms are not a threat but rather it is criminals with guns that serve as a menace to the community. And criminals have no regard for the

law anyway so a ban on guns is not going to prevent them from obtaining the firearms they want.

This viewpoint also argued that by reversing the firearm ban those who wish to own a gun for protection pur-

gun violence.

When criminals know that citizens are armed then they will be forced to take it to the next level. This means instead of handguns, criminals will step it up to more sophisticated weaponry in order to outdo their target victims.

In essence the ban on firearms was a good attempt but future legislation needs to be more specific and less broad.

The focus should rely more on gun control, background checks and safety training instead of an all-out ban.

Future laws should also aim at protecting the streets from those who threaten our neighborhoods and not those who solely wish to protect themselves.

Our View:
Instead of a complete ban on firearms, the government should create more gun regulations.

posed can do so legally and not become criminals themselves.

Others took the stance that guns, in general, can never represent anything good. This view support that guns that are more easily accessible equates to more

checks and safety training instead of an all-out ban.

Future laws should also aim at protecting the streets from those who threaten our neighborhoods and not those who solely wish to protect themselves.

and public demonstrations follow, the more it would take for a person to look out the window and start to think, "How can we stop this from happening?"

If I was to come to a person's door for food one day, the person probably might brush me off. If I came at the second day, the person may still brush me off. After a few more times, eventually this person would be annoyed and would do anything to get me to stop coming. He might send policemen telling me to leave.

He might send other officials to curse me out. He might threaten to hold me under arrest, assuming that I don't know that I couldn't be arrested on the grounds that I don't have any weapons and I haven't demonstrated potential harm to him. As the more times I arrive and the more times he tries to stop me, eventually he'll give up and give me a piece of pie. THAT is what a protest is for.

So, to make sure that there is nobody who doesn't know when to step up to the plate, I'll let it be known that there is a march at the Pentagon this Saturday. Tomorrow will be a rally in Blackburn.

I'm sick of people telling me that our generation is complacent and is not politically active. For once, let's work for the food than wait for it to be delivered to us.

- Stephen Redhead

Perspective: Our Voice, Our Move

Recently, I sat back and reminisced about the things that I have accomplished during my years of college education. Some of which were personal, but others affected not only myself, but of the student body.

One instance was from earlier this year when I participated in a non-profit membership organization called "The Hip-Hop Caucus" at an anti-war march located at the National Mall. I felt that it was imperative for young people, especially college students, to participate in this march because of the situation that was at hand. Thousands of troops were being sent overseas to fight in a war that they didn't need to be in, and what's interesting is, any one of us on this campus could be up for deployment.

However, I realized that when I came to the location, the Hip-Hop Caucus was the only organization that had young people participating to have their voices heard. It was also the only one that young African-Americans marching alongside them, as well as students from other universities as far as Toronto. I felt that it was crazy that my Howard family wasn't there.

At the march, I saw an old friend from back in my neighborhood. From the years that I've known him, he never showed allegiance to anything in this world. He didn't listen to or cared for what anyone told

him, especially his family. He never went to college and spent the majority of his time hustling around the neighborhood until he acquired a legitimate job to care for himself and his daughter.

I asked him what made him want to come to this march. He told me that there were people that are much worse off than him and the actions of a few affect us all and eventually would affect his child in the future.

We marched with Jesse Jackson & his wife in the front of the lines of what turned out to be one of the largest public protests in history. It was enough people to circle the entire Capitol building.

Sometimes, I feel that our morals and ways of behavior are disturbing. We've become too complacent when things are in need of attention.

Where were the people that stood on the Yard with me when Bush visited the campus and shut all of the buildings down? Has that spark gone out after a couple of Homecomings later? I returned to the campus after the event and told my colleagues what happened, and most of which either didn't know about the march at all, or simply stated "what is the point of a protest, did it affect any change?"

First of all, the concept of a protest is not to raise awareness of a situation that we don't agree with. As more protests

Daily SuDoku

Directions: Each row, each column, and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

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Monday @ 7 p.m.

THE HILLTOP

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The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through Letters to The Editor or Perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically on our Web site at www.thehilltoponline.com.

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The Hilltop:
2251 Sherman Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001

Editorial Office:
(202) 806-4724
www.thehilltoponline.com

Business Office:
(202) 806-4749
hilltopbusiness@gmail.com

Now in its 83rd year, *The Hilltop* is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 7,000, *The Hilltop* is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

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Confessions of an L&S Editor



BY DANIELLE KWATENG
Life & Style Editor

Dear Howard,
With four days until the weekend and spring break following, everyone can just feel the ease of vacation time upon them. This spring break, many students are taking their annual trips to Miami or the Caribbean for some "fun in the sun."

I remember being in high school, living 30 minutes away from Miami and not being able to go down there was, as one can imagine, the worst. It just looked like the best way for college students to release their stress.

With this being my second college spring break, one would think I had plans to go home and party on Collins Avenue. But to the contrary, I have different intentions.

To be honest, lying on the beach with a frozen drink in one hand and the number of a hot guy in the other sounds wonderful. But, there is a mission that has to be fulfilled. Hundreds of students, including myself, are driven by a purpose.

Mainstream America has virtually forgotten about the people of New Orleans. Every once in a while you will hear "Hurricane Katrina" and "clean-up" used simultaneously, but is anything really being done?

Dr. Gregory Carr addressed Alternative Spring Break volunteers on Sunday about people of African descent being linked by more than just race. Festivals like Mardi Gras were created to remind Africans of where they came from and to celebrate their heritage annually. But, what do we as African Americans do to celebrate our history?

Many may point to Christmas rituals, Kwanzaa, family reunions and even annual trips as answers to this question. All of these practices are wonderful, but if these activities were taken away, would we lose our identity?

Unlike many civilizations before us, the answer is no. We lick our wounds, come together and rebuild.

New Orleans is a reminder of the prevailing power of spiritual discernment and strength blacks possess. Despite the alarming numbers that the black population of New Orleans has dropped from 67 percent to only 47 percent, there still seems to be a sense of resilience in the "Nola."

Blacks are one of the most resilient groups in the world. Often, we get bombarded with stories that showcase so much negativity that we rarely get a chance to dwell on all the good. African-American accomplishments are often forgotten, while the rash actions of a few receive media attention.

Well this spring break, I'm happy students are doing something positive for blacks, helping to restore a city and its heritage to what it once was.

I hope everyone has a safe and fun spring break. And you Miami-goers behave yourselves. Remember who you are representing.

If you are happy to go on spring break and you know it, shoot me an e-mail at dani_kwateng@yahoo.com.

Driven: Student Producer Chris Hines

BY JESSICA M. LITTLES
Contributing Writer

While many college students come to college seeking their passion, struggling to find their niche or trying to decide on a career, Chris Hines has known for a long time what he wanted to do. When asked his career of choice, he sums it up in three words.

"I'm a producer," he says. "Instrumentation, some lyrics, recording and engineering."

As a sophomore business administration major from Detroit, he has been producing for the past four years. To many, he is known as "Brandon Hines' little brother," but Hines has been making a name for himself as a talented producer and dancer on Howard's campus.

Growing up, Hines was always musically inclined. He began playing the piano when he was four, but only got serious about music in the 10th grade when he met another fellow musician through a good friend. He started playing the piano again and began producing beats, as well. Shortly after, he and his friend began a group called 47th Note.

Another climax in Hines' musical career occurred when he came to Howard and his brother, Brandon, an up and coming R&B singer, decided to make an album. He produced six tracks for



Jessica Detioge - Staff Photographer

Sophomore business administration major, Brandon Hines cites his parents and upbringing in Detroit as the reasons he pursued and honed his musical ability.

his brother, who has had local and nationwide success with his album "Love Music: Falling In and Out."

Music is not Hines' only talent. He considers himself just as much a dancer as a musician. Hines is a proud member of Howard's hip-hop performance team, Vizion, which he considers the highlight of his Howard experience. Hines is unable to choose between his two

talents.

"Production is my release from the School of Business, and dance is my release from production because sometimes production can be a little crazy too. I have to do both."

Although some may consider Hines to be the class of 2009's most talented, he is not resting on his laurels.

"It is definitely a gift. God can give it and take it away,"

Hines said.

Some of his favorite artists include Usher, Prince, Michael Jackson and Aaliyah. Among producers, he admires Timbaland, the Neptunes and Just Blaze. If he could work with any artist, it would be Stevie Wonder.

In addition to musical impacts, Hines considers his family and his hometown as major influences in his budding career.

Vacation Destination: Celebratory Ghana Tour

BY OLIVIA WILLIAMSON
Contributing Writer

In commemoration of Ghana's 50th Independence Day, the Ghana Association of Travel and Tour Agents has initiated the "Travel Ghana Program" aimed at encouraging victims of the Diaspora to visit Ghana in an effort to trace their heritage.

Rosa Combs, senior legal communications major said, "I think that a trip to Ghana would be a great experience not only because I am black but just to travel."

On March 6, 1957, Ghana became the first black African country to obtain its independence from colonial rule.

Ghanaian President Kwame Nkrumah saw a vision of independence and self sufficiency for all of Africa, and through his revolutionary works, he helped lead Ghana to independence.

These early political victories solidified Ghana as a symbol of the struggle for independence and African unity to the world.

Fifty years later, Ghana dubs 2007 its Golden Jubilee where the theme "Championing African Excellence" personifies Nkrumah's vision.

Celebratory events have been scheduled throughout the entire year with a different theme for each month.

This month's theme is Freedom March which included the Independence Day parade, and numerous tour offerings for people from around the world.

Since most of the slaves acquired during the Atlantic slave trade were from Western Africa, a visit to Ghana is not only an opportunity to experience the cultural richness of the region, but an opportunity for black people to gain insight into their ancestral heritage.

Senior political science major Elizabeth Jamison Dunn had the opportunity to visit Ghana during the summer of her senior year of high school. She encourages

a visit to Ghana or any part of the African continent.

"If you are fortunate to receive an opportunity to go to Africa, take it. You need to see a part of you that was taken away. No matter how much you read, you will never understand Africa and its link to you if you don't witness it first hand," she said.

One of the main and most extensive tours is being offered by Land Tours Ghana Limited, a full service destination management company based in Ghana's capitol city of Accra.

The 11-day tour included room and board in a four star hotel where breakfast and dinner was served daily.

The events featured a tour of the city of Accra, the Independence Day parade, a visit to Cape Coast Castle and Elmina Castle, a day of shopping and many other attractions.

The starting price of the land tour package was \$1,360 and although it did not include airfare, Delta airlines joined in on the festivities to offer discounted airfare for those who traveled to Ghana for Independence Day.

In preparation for the festivities, the Ghanaian hospitality industry has planned for a crowd. Local artisans and merchants are prepared to offer their finest "pieces of Ghana" to curious tourists.

Although the amount of African Americans, Caribbean's and Latinos who took part in this year's Independence Day have not yet be quantified, support for the tour is supported by many students here at Howard University.

"It is great because in addition to Africa seeming like something so distant from me as a person and from where I am geographically, the expensive price of a trip all the way to Africa is a disincentive for a lot of people," Combs added.

The idea of experiencing and not just studying heritage is shared by Jean-Michel Mabeko-Tali, who

received his Ph.D. in African history and teaches several Pan-Africanism courses at Howard.

"It is a matter of memory," he said. "Go for more than just research, go and come back with a sense of history and self."

In addition to encouraging his students to visit Africa, Tali encourages them to learn an African language as language is the basis for communication and it is necessary to communicate as brothers and sisters.

He also highlights that there is a revival of attitudes towards black nationalism and returns to Africa that have not been so pronounced since the 1960s.

With students awareness of Africa and their close connection to it, hopefully they will begin to travel throughout the continent to learn more about their heritage and encourage more blacks to visit.

Senior occupational therapy major Christina Popoola, whose mother is black, and father a Yoruba from Lagos, Nigeria, has visited Nigeria for no less than a month every year since she was born.

She is Nigerian by culture and believes that a visit to Africa is life changing for both the visitor and those in Africa who receive them.

"It is a chance to experience something outside of who you are. You learn about a culture other than yours that you are in some way apart of."

Popoola also thinks students can share the experience with their loved ones when they return.

"It is a humbling experience and a chance for you to share your culture and perhaps things you bring from the states with people who know as little about you as you know about them," she added.

For more information on the Ghana's independence and the Ghana Land tour, log on to www.ghana50.gov.gh.

Top 5 Sites in Ghana



1. ELIMINA CASTLE

One of the most emotional and life changing buildings on Ghana, this castle served as the last stop for African slaves going across the Atlantic. Built in 1482 by the Portuguese, its reported as being the oldest European built structure south of the Sahara. Tourists tend to enjoy this the most because of the beautiful view of the Atlantic and close connection it has to them.

